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## Contact Us

<http://www.ncae.org>

[robert76@embarqmail.com](mailto:robert76@embarqmail.com)

Robert Blackwell  
411 Western Blvd  
Suite 21  
Jacksonville, NC  
28546  
(910) 347-7623  
(800) 525-7628

## Federal Jobs Bill Intended to Retain, Rehire Teachers and Support Staff

NCAE is urging local superintendents and school boards to spend the money allocated to North Carolina in the recently passed Jobs Bill for education in accordance with federal regulations.

The intent of the \$300 million the Jobs Bill sends to North Carolina is to retain and hire back education employees who would otherwise go unemployed because of decreasing education revenues. Failure to comply with federal regulations could result in charge-backs that could adversely affect the local school system's budget.

Money to rehire personnel is being rushed to the states and then forwarded to local districts.

The purpose of these funds is not for building rainy day funds or funding projects other than salary and benefits. Some local districts have suggested saving these dollars as a hedge against more losses in the state's 2012 school budget, but this is not allowable.

NCAE strongly believes federal regulations allowing funds to be carried over by a local board could only occur when the board has rehired every employee recently terminated for lack of funds over the past two years. When that has been done, then and only then, is the local board free to carry the funds from the Jobs Bill over to the next fiscal year.

The federal Jobs Bill is designed to re-employ teachers and ESPs now. It is possible that a laid-off employee may be recalled, paid this year, and the local board may have no funds next year to retain the employee, but the intent of the Jobs Bill is to employ educators now.

Schools in North Carolina have been hit hard by the recession. Nationwide over 300,000 school personnel have lost their jobs. In fact, the situation became so critical that the U.S. Senate attached a jobs amendment to another bill and the U.S. House came back from August recess at Speaker Nancy Pelosi's behest to quickly pass the \$26 billion amendment to reemploy those whose jobs were lost over the last two years because of the economy.

President Obama and a majority of Congress apparently thought it is better for the employees to have a job now than to be unemployed this year hoping that the economy will improve next year. If the economic crisis continues, Congress might be forced to consider another jobs bill to keep people working rather than boost unemployment numbers."

"The \$300 million for North Carolina schools from the federal Jobs Bill will go a long way toward putting most education personnel back to work who have been terminated for lack of funds. Of course, those terminated for causes other than lack of money are not covered under the bill.

## Spotlight on NCAE Member Benefits

You and your family deserve the best. That's why when it comes to NCAE member benefits, superior service is the #1 priority. No matter what your financial goals, you can always count on our experience to provide you with access to a vast array of valuable money-saving programs.

In this issue I want to turn the spotlight on grocery coupons. If there's one thing we all have in common, it's that everyone has to eat. Now we have something else in common: we can

all save on the groceries we buy most.

In a continuing effort to help members save on the basic necessities of life, **NCAE Access now offers valuable grocery coupons.** These coupons work exactly like the ones you clip out of the Sunday newspaper, only they are online for our NCAE members. Go to [www.ncae.org](http://www.ncae.org) and register your card. Then the savings begin.



## What has NCAE done for YOU lately?

NCAE President Sheri Strickland and Center for Teaching & Learning Manager Angela Farthing represented K-12 educators at the State Board of Education meeting.

Sheri Strickland and Angela Farthing participated in the State Board's discussion of new accountability model, RTTT, and more.

NCAE Officers met with Dawn Shepard Pope, Governor Perdue's Teacher Advisor. Mrs. Shepard Pope is a member of the NCAE and NEA Boards of Directors.



### **Association Dues and Your Income Tax**

**For All Tax Years:** Association members can deduct the total of your unified dues (NCAE-NEA) as a miscellaneous itemized deduction on your federal income taxes, but not as a charitable contribution. Dues are one sum for January-August plus a different sum for September-December because the calendar year overlaps two Association membership years. Use your paycheck stub to determine the deduction amounts for your annual income tax filing.

**For Tax Year 2009:** NEA helped Association members get continued tax relief in Congress by securing an extension of the deduction for instructional materials and classroom supplies which

was set to expire. Teachers and paraeducators can deduct up to \$250 for out-of-pocket classroom expenses as the "educator expense deduction" if you worked at least 900 hours in 2009. Your qualified expenses are subtracted when figuring your adjusted gross income. You must file IRS Form 1040 to take the deduction (claim the \$250 on line 23); it cannot be claimed on Form 1040A. For more information, go to the [IRS Tax Topic #458, Educator Expense Deduction](#).

**RANKED ONE OF THE GREENEST COMPANIES IN AMERICA**

Whirlpool Corporation was named one of the greenest companies in America by Newsweek Green Rankings, a list of the 500 greenest large companies in America!

Uses less energy each year than a 75-watt light bulb!  
Whirlpool® Model: G7FVCKW

Washer Uses 66% less energy 70% less water  
Maytag® Model: MVWB850W

Energy efficient and delivers 25%<sup>3</sup> better results versus the competition.  
KitchenAid® Model: KUDE60FV

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1) Companies in the Newsweek Green Rankings were selected from among the 500 largest U.S. companies. For details, see <http://greenrankings.newsweek.com>. 2) Based on continuous operation of bulb for one year. 3) Compared to pre-2004 conventional washers. 4) Combined wash and dry results of leading premium brands' highest MSRP models without heated dry. Whirlpool Corporation is the industry leader in developing high performance appliances that help conserve the earth's resources and help homeowners save energy and water more efficiently.

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## Special Thanks to the following:

- \*Dr. Dan Novey, Superintendent Carteret County Public Schools
- \*Mr. J. Ipock, Finance Officer Carteret County Public Schools
- \*All education employees and especially members of NCAE.

One of my favorite quotes is by Pat Conroy from his book Prince of Tides:

*“There is no word in the language I revere more than teacher. My heart sings when a kid refers to me as his teacher, and it always has. I’ve honored myself and my whole family by becoming one.”*